

**REMARKS**

The rejection to claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 has been maintained under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Youssefzadeh. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner comments, in response to the arguments presented in the amendment filed November 3, 2003, that "Youssefzadeh does point out clearly that in Figure 2, not in Figure 1, unit 42 is used for link 44, which is signaling connections as cited." Applicant's respectfully disagree. In Figure 2, the radio transmission unit is not used for transmission between the radio subsystem and the switching center, as unit 42 in Figure 1 is not between the switching center (MSC 27) and radio subsystem 22 (as required by the claimed invention), and unit 42 in Figure 2 is between PSTN earth terminal station 60 and the network controller 32 (i.e. not between the switch center and radio subsystem). Additionally, in the claimed invention, **only** the signaling connections are passed on via the radio transmission unit to the switching center, whereas in the cited reference, traffic channel connections 46 (i.e. not only signaling connections) are switched via the satellite backbone network 40. Other examples include all traffic routed through a satellite (page 2, line 31), the satellite backbone 40 in Figure 3 including one or more satellites 42, open signaling and data channel 44 and DAMA traffic circuit 46 (page 9, line 17).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the number below, to conduct a telephonic interview regarding the arguments presented above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122015200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: April 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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